

**SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN
(PUBLIC PARTICIPATION)**

January 17, 2006

7:00 PM

Mayor Guinta called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll. There were thirteen Aldermen present.

Present: Aldermen Roy, Gatsas, Long, Duval, Osborne, Pinard, O'Neil,
Lopez, Shea, DeVries, Garrity, Smith and Forest

Absent: Alderman Thibault

Mayor Guinta advised that the purpose of the of the special meeting is to give residents of Manchester the opportunity to address the Board on items of concern affecting the community; that each person will be given only one opportunity to speak; that comments shall be limited to two minutes to allow all participants the opportunity to speak and any comments must be directed to the Chair.

Mayor Guinta requested that any resident wishing to speak come forward to the nearest microphone, clearly state their name and address when recognized, and give their comments.

State Representative Steve Vaillancourt, 161 Faith Lane, Manchester, NH (Re: Lionel Johnson), stated:

I'm a State Representative from Ward 8 in Manchester, am serving in my 10th year as a representative and that is why I'm kind of here tonight. For seven of those years the person who sat in front of me in the New Hampshire House was Lionel Johnson who died last year. I'm here tonight and I'd rather be any place in the world than here tonight but I've come to you to defend the honor of Lionel Johnson. Lionel Johnson was a friend of mine. I knew him for seven years. He was the most conservative of democrats, he was condemned by democratic leadership for being too conservative. In 1999 when the income tax passed by house by 194 to a 190 vote Lionel Johnson was one of only seven democrats to cote against it. I am outraged that a racist, charlatan, anti-Semite like Al Sharpton would be brought here to honor Lionel Johnson during last week's Martin Luther King Day celebration. Lionel Johnson deserved better than this and for those of you who have forgotten Al Sharpton and his anti-Semitic rantings which leased to the death of a Jewish man in New York City...I have a story which compares him to David Duke. If any republican sat down and honored David Duke people would be outraged...people should be equally outraged that democrats and two Aldermen in this hall, the democratic leader of the New Hampshire House and a newly elected State Representative sat down and honored Al Sharpton in the name of Lionel

Johnson. What's even worse than that the saddest thing of all was that Grace Sullivan who refuses to run state house meetings on MCTV, who refuses to run Concerned Taxpayer meetings...we found hour after hour after hour to put this partisan rally for a bigot and a racist on MCTV. Dr. Grace Sullivan a disgrace to this city should be investigated for the way she puts things on MCTV. If any of you think I'm a racist I voted for the Martin Luther King Day time-and-again with my friend Lionel Johnson. The people of New Hampshire know Al Sharpton...while Jesse Jackson received 8.1% of the vote when he ran for president here in 1988, Al Sharpton received 0.15% of the vote...statewide 347 votes...in Manchester 31. Everybody who sat at that dinner honoring Lionel Johnson with the likes of Al Sharpton should be ashamed of themselves. Lionel Johnson deserved better than that. Forgive them Lionel, for they know now what they do. You are a good man. Al Sharpton a despicable human being. Thank you, your Honor.

Al Heidenreich, 53 Lincoln Street, Manchester, NH (Re: Parks and Senior Center), stated: I'm associated with MCAM, not MCTV...leave it to me to follow Steve Vaillancourt but very quickly I just want to make a couple of comments that are coming up soon. There was an article in the newspaper recently on parks in the south part of the city being targeted for new parks and the expansion of parks, etc. I don't know all of the details and I don't pretend to all I want to bring up at this time regarding the parks themselves is that we have parks in the city that are completely unused. Now, they're not big enough to solve the problems that we're talking about to get all the sports facilities in but my concern is that if we can't take care of the parks that we have I certainly don't want to advocate building any new ones and I'm all for the facilities that we can possibly handle but I live across the street from a park if it weren't for myself and a couple of other people that park would not be maintained at all. The City of Manchester or Parks and Recreation comes down maybe three or four times a year and mows the grass. The Highway Department empties the barrels once a week other than that that's it. They do not week, they do not trim, they do not clean the walks, trim the trees, do anything else...this is done by myself and concerned neighbors. So, if we can't afford to take care of the small parks that we have now then please take into consideration any new ones that you want to build and once they're done can we take care of them later on...that is a major concern because they fall into disrepair and then you've got tremendous bills coming up later on to repair the damage. I didn't have another subject but on the way down I thought of it and that is the Senior Center. We have their great Senior Center that we spent a lot of money on over on the west side and I spend a lot of time there and it's a fantastic place. Whether you were for or against it it is there, it is built and the money is spent and yet it is only utilized approximately 35 to 40 percent of the time...there are no evenings except the one that somebody volunteers at I guess and an occasional Saturday. I would like to see some extra funding or personnel added so that the seniors can take more advantage of the facilities there. If it's open during the day from 9 to 4 what about the seniors that still work...they can't go there in the evening, they can't use it on a weekend...it's a beautiful building, the facilities are great...there's all kinds of opportunities for us seniors and I would like to see it more utilized and not closed all the hours that it has

but I certainly would appreciate your consideration in taking a look at that when the budget comes up. Thank you very much.

Jeff Kassel, 22 Appleton Street, Manchester, NH, stated:

This is the first meeting this year that I've gone to...maybe this is the first Aldermanic meeting. It seems to be the same group over on this side but we do have some new faces over here so I'll mainly address this side of the room with the new faces. I want to welcome the new Aldermen especially Real who I campaigned for. I went to the Inauguration where everybody was inaugurated...got into a little discussion with Dan O'Neil that became a little heated. I asked Dan if he was going to be leading the charge to reduce spending and taxes in the city and he said how many fire stations do you want to close, Jeff. And, I didn't give him an exact number but he told me and if I got this wrong, Dan, I'd appreciate it if you'd correct me...he told me that even if my house was burning down that the city firefighters would put it out and of course I wondered why they wouldn't since I pay four or five thousand dollars in taxes and help pay their salary I would hope that they would be willing to put the fire of my house down but the reality is of course that a lot of the buildings in Manchester are wooden framed buildings and even if they burn to the absolute ground the water damage pretty much totals out the building. What I did want to talk about tonight was that signature apartment building on Bridge and Elm that most of you voted for. I don't know whether you are aware of how many tenants are in that building...I opposed it, the city's got \$5 million into that building and I would like to see something out of the Aldermanic Board about how the city's going to be protected...maybe they'll be protected no matter what. I'm also quite worried about the Bedford students leaving...that's about \$7 million. I would like to see a proportional amount of layoffs in the school system to compensate the city so that we don't end up carrying that burden as well either through layoffs or through retirements or something...that's \$7 million...that's serious money and I hope there's going to be more discussion about that. Thank you.

Joe Kelly Levasseur, 866 Elm Street, Manchester, NH (Re: MCAM), stated:

I'd like to congratulate Mayor Guinta for his win...I wish you well in your next two years, it's not an easy job. As most of you know I host a TV show on Channel 23, I have been doing so for the past six years. This Monday morning I received a disturbing phone call that there was a private meeting taking place at the union hall over at Calef Road at the Ironworker's Union Hall where Pat Long who is the Alderman who has just been recently elected in Ward 3 was hosting a private meeting. I went over to that meeting and brought my video camera because I understood that there were aldermen that were in that meeting. I counted the cars, I took pictures and I have video...seven vehicles, seven aldermen that were in that meeting. I got video of the aldermen getting out of the doors, coming out of the building and getting into their cars...seven aldermen having a secret meeting in Manchester in a hall that is run by a union boss here in Manchester. What was going on at that meeting and why did it take four hours for you people to have a clandestine meeting going on without

it being posted, without any knowledge to anybody. I received a tip that this was going on. Your Honor, you have a very tough job...you do not have a lot of friends on this Board, you have people that are going to try to do everything they can to make your term a very short one. Alderman Lopez is the Chairman of the Board, he knows the rules and so don't the other aldermen who were in that meeting. Alderman Lopez owes the City of Manchester an explanation as to what was going on for four hours at a union hall with seven aldermen from the City of Manchester...Mark Roy, Pat Long, Dan O'Neil, Alderman Forest, Alderman Smith, Alderman DeVries and Alderman Lopez...I called a couple of other aldermen and they knew nothing about that meeting, they didn't know anything at all. So, what were you people doing in there, what were you talking about, what were you plotting. On my show which airs Thursday at 8:30 PM and again at 11:00 AM on Sunday you will see the video of the vehicles, the union hall and certain members of this Board...this esteemed Board coming out of that hall. Your Honor, this could possibly be a breach of the public trust. If Alderman Lopez, Chairman of the Board, does not explain himself and what was going on at that meeting I would request that this be taken down to the Conduct Committee...good luck.

On motion of Alderman Forest, duly seconded by Alderman Garrity, it was voted to take all comments under advisement and further to receive and file any written documentation presented.

This being a special meeting of the Board, no further business was presented and on motion of Alderman Shea, duly seconded by Alderman Pinard, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk